



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 17 March 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The San Francisco Chronicle reports Internet auctioneer EBay warns that online con artists have tricked several online merchants who use EBay's PayPal, and have stolen customer information that may make a common e-mail scam even more dangerous. (See item [6](#))
- The Globe and Mail reports Equifax Canada has confirmed that criminals have gained access to the detailed, personal credit files of more than 1,000 people, in a security breach that raises fears of a major identity theft. (See item [7](#))
- The Washington Times reports the U.S. Senate is proposing \$1.3 billion to be spent on railroad security, paying for tunnel safety improvements, and providing money to Amtrak, commuter railroads, and freight railroads as security grants. (See item [11](#))
- The New York Times reports that in response to a surge in violence and instability along the Arizona-Mexico border, federal officials will begin a major air and ground initiative to help keep out illegal immigrants, drug smugglers and possibly terrorists. (See item [12](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

Federal and State: [Government](#); [Emergency Services](#)

IT and Cyber: [Information and Telecommunications](#); [Internet Alert Dashboard](#)

Other: [General](#); [DHS/IAIP Web Information](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

March 16, Reuters — **Oil hits one-year high.** Oil prices hit fresh one-year highs on Tuesday, March 16, as consumers voiced growing concern over the economic repercussions of higher energy costs. U.S. light crude rose 36 cents to hit a new 12-month peak at \$37.80 per barrel, extending strong gains since last week's Madrid bombings fueled concern about further attacks that could disrupt oil supplies. Supply concerns have gained renewed force as oil cartel OPEC, which controls half the world's crude exports, plans to reduce supplies at a time when Chinese demand is rocketing. **Traders are also on edge over the prospects of a summer gasoline supply crunch in the United States, the world's biggest oil consumer, where fuel inventories are running below normal levels.** Traders remain concerned that refineries could struggle to build inventories for the peak demand summer season as new environmental regulations restrict supply.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A63052-2004Mar 16.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

Chemical Sector

2. *March 16, Coloradoan.com* — **Tanker overturns, leaking liquid nitrogen. A tanker truck filled with pure liquid nitrogen flipped on its side Monday in a parking lot outside Agilent Technologies in Fort Collins, CO.** Firefighters and hazardous materials teams from Poudre Fire Authority and Agilent Technologies were called just after 1 p.m. to clean up and contain the chemical. "We did an assessment and found that the outer shell of the liquid nitrogen tank was damaged," said Glenn Levy, battalion chief with Poudre Fire Authority. "The inner tank was also damaged because we did have liquid nitrogen leaking." Emergency workers cordoned off a large area of the Agilent parking lot as they worked for five hours to transfer the chemical to an empty truck. **Liquid nitrogen is extremely dangerous to humans because of its very cold temperature -- 150 degrees below zero -- and its massive expansion rate. "One gallon, when it leaks out, turns into 100 gallons of pure liquid nitrogen,"** Levy said. The chemical is also dangerous because it removes oxygen from the air, basically creating an atmosphere where people can't breathe.

Source: <http://www.coloradoan.com/news/stories/20040316/news/88067.html>

3. *March 16, Miami Herald* — **Nitric acid blast rocks Colorado chemical plant. A 1,000-gallon tank containing nitric acid exploded Monday afternoon, March 15, outside the Air Products plant at the Pueblo Industrial Park,** but no serious injuries were reported and the area was declared safe Monday evening. The explosion occurred at 1:45 p.m., blowing out part of one wall and part of the plant's roof, said Inspector Gary Micheli of the Pueblo Fire Department. A representative for Air Products, 250 William White Blvd., said the huge tank, which contained 250 gallons of nitric acid, had become overpressurized, causing the blast. **A yellowish haze could be seen in the area following the explosion. Exposure to nitric acid can cause various health problems, including breathing difficulties and eye damage.** Rural and city fire departments, the Pueblo Police Department, the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office, the Colorado State Patrol and hazardous materials units all responded to the scene, Micheli said. Hazmat workers still were inspecting the plant Monday evening.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/national/82010 69.htm>

[[Return to top](#)]

Defense Industrial Base Sector

4. *March 15, AMC News Service* — **AMC central to historic troop rotation. Department of Defense (DoD) officials have challenged those from Air Mobility Command (AMC) to play a central role in the Southwest Asia troop rotation by moving 250,000 people in 60 days.** Defense officials have called the troop movement a historic feat and the largest troop movement since World War II. AMC's job is to redeploy the forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan and bring in new troops. The rotation began February 1, and as of March 11, 90,000 servicemembers have moved into the theater, and 44,000 have returned home. **Part of the challenge is not only tracking the military aircraft but also the commercial-contract aircraft carrying 90 percent of the passenger load.** A C-17 Globemaster III carries about 96 passengers, but a commercial wide-body passenger aircraft which occupies the same parking space can carry 285 to 350 people. With commercial carriers taking on requirements for passenger travel and commercial sealift moving as much as 85 percent of the cargo, General Welser, the commander of 18th Air Force, said military airlift is not stretched as thin, increasing the ability of the DoD to provide airlift into hostile territory and to respond to emerging international crises.

Source: <http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123007212>

5. *March 15, Marine Corps News* — **Marines hustle to toughen Iraq-bound vehicles.** As Marines continue rolling into Iraq, leaders in Kuwait bustle to outfit as many military convoys as possible with extra protection for passengers from ambushes and improvised explosives commonly used by insurgents. **According to guidance from the I Marine Expeditionary Force's commanding general, every effort is to be made to armor the thousands of "soft-skinned" military vehicles the Marines are bringing with them to Iraq. Given the tactics currently used by the enemy, the Marine Corps is eager to add higher levels of protection to their vehicles,** beyond simply requiring passengers to wear Kevlar helmets and flak jackets with bulletproof inserts and lining the truck's inside with sandbags. Protection for most vehicles comes in the form of add-on kits, which fasten to the chassis or frame. Different kits provide different levels of protection and are applied depending on the mission the vehicle will be used for, said Lt. Col. Todd Lloyd, the 1st Force Service Support Group's logistics officer overseeing operations in Kuwait.

Source: <http://www.usmc.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/main5/71CC51F87A133C1985256E5800592E67?opendocument>

[[Return to top](#)]

Banking and Finance Sector

6. *March 16, San Francisco Chronicle* — **New scam threat at EBay. Online con artists have stolen customer information that may make a common e-mail scam even more dangerous, Internet auctioneer EBay Inc., warned. Hackers tricked several online merchants who use EBay's PayPal payment processing system into disclosing their user names and passwords, then logged onto the merchants' accounts to download lists of customer names, e-mail addresses, home addresses and transactions, said spokesperson**

Amanda Pires. The San Jose, CA, company did not disclose how many customers had their information stolen, but Pires said it constitutes a small percentage of the service's 40 million registered users. No credit card information, Social Security numbers or other financial details were compromised because that information is encrypted and kept on servers not accessible to merchants, Pires said. However, EBay fears that the information will be used to trick customers into giving up their credit card information in an e-mail scam known as phishing. The PayPal merchants were probably tricked into giving up their own passwords with a phishing e-mail, the company suspects. EBay realized what was going on late Thursday, March 11, and put out a warning to customers the next day.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2004/03/16/BUG5T5LCM31.DTL>

7. *March 16, The Globe and Mail (Canada)* — **Identity theft feared after credit information stolen.** Criminals have gained access to the detailed, personal credit files of more than 1,000 people, in a security breach that raises fears of a major identity theft. The security breach was confirmed Monday, March 15, by Equifax Canada Inc., a major national consumer-credit reporting agency. By gaining access to the files, criminals have obtained social-insurance numbers, bank account numbers, credit histories, home addresses, job descriptions, and the names of spouses. **"We have learned of a situation in which the Equifax credit reports of about 1,400 consumers -- primarily in British Columbia and Alberta -- were accessed by criminals posing as legitimate credit grantors," Equifax said in a statement.** A company official confirmed that the files of people in other provinces were also breached, but most are in the West. Equifax discovered the breach in late February, and began notifying the people whose files were accessed. Joel Heft, vice-president of Equifax, said he did not know if organized crime was behind it, but he said it would take a sophisticated operation to breach the company's security measures.

Source: <http://www.globeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20040316.wxcredit0316/BNStory/National/>

8. *March 16, finextra.com* — **Financial sector is the top target for cyber attacks.** Financial service firms experience the highest number of malicious virus attacks compared to other industries, with almost half (48%) recording at least one severe incident in the six-month period from July to December 2003, according to research by Internet security systems vendor Symantec. **Symantec's Internet Security Threat Report reveals that attacks on financial sector companies are four times greater than in the telecommunications industry. According to the research, threats to confidentiality are rapidly increasing, with a 148% growth in volume of malicious code submission.** Blended threats -- like Blaster, Welchia, SoBig.F and Dumaru -- make up 54% of the top ten submissions for the last six months of 2003. These variants are increasingly using backdoors left by other attackers in order to gain control of a target system. Symantec research shows that almost one third of all attacking systems targeted the vulnerability exploited by the Blaster worm and its successors. Symantec's technical services director, Richard Archdeacon, says patch management continues to be critical, but financial organizations are struggling to keep patch levels up-to-date.

Source: <http://www.finextra.com/topstory.asp?id=11421>

9. *March 16, Mercury News (CA)* — **Debit-card customers overcharged.** Washington Mutual suffered a software glitch Sunday, March 14, that may have led tens of thousands of customers using the bank's debit cards to be charged twice for purchases. During the

course of the problem, which lasted about five hours, transactions involving debit cards were erroneously denied at the point of purchase, but funds were still withdrawn from customer accounts. In many cases, bank officials said, customers probably assumed their Washington Mutual accounts had not been debited and used another form of payment, such as a credit card, effectively paying for the same items twice. **Washington Mutual blamed the incident on a corrupted computer file.** It said the problem was sporadic during the five-hour period. As many as 30,000 customers were affected in California, Arizona, Nevada, Colorado, Texas, Illinois, Florida, Georgia, New Jersey and New York. Technicians at the Seattle, WA, bank have replaced the corrupted file, spokesperson Tim McGarry said. The company was to begin reversing the erroneous transactions Monday, March 15.

Source: <http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/business/8197593.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Transportation Sector

10. *March 16, Government Executive Magazine* — **Aviation industry raises concerns about future of screening program.** Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, Congress mandated the use federal screeners at the nation's commercial airports. **Starting this November, however, airports will have the option of using private screeners again.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) which manages the federal screening workforce, is responsible for developing an "opt-out program" that will give airports guidance on screening workforce options. In late February, the American Association of Airport Executives and Airports Council International – North America launched an initiative to give airports a voice in the formulation of the opt-out program. More than 50 airports have asked to participate in the initiative to obtain information. To help develop guidance for the opt-out program, TSA contracted a Virginia company to evaluate the pilot program. **The study, due in April, will focus on how the five private security operations compare with federal security screening operations in three areas: security effectiveness, cost, and customer and stakeholder impact.** The study will compare screening operations, not individual screener performance and will not provide an overall recommendation as to which model is better. Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0304/031504c1.htm>

11. *March 16, The Washington Times* — **Senate reviews railroad security. Nearly \$1.3 billion would be spent on rail security under federal legislation introduced since the Madrid train bombings last week. The money would include \$515 million in fiscal 2005 for more surveillance of rail facilities and closer monitoring of passengers.** The senators who introduced the legislation are seeking an additional \$777 million to pay for railroad tunnel safety improvements, including \$40 million for the Amtrak tunnel running under the Supreme Court and Capitol Hill offices to Union Station. "The harsh truth is that our passenger rail system is far from safe and unless we do something about it and do it quickly, we could suffer a similar or even worse fate," said Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., Delaware Democrat. Part of the money would be given to Amtrak, commuter railroads and freight railroads as security grants. Other provisions would ask the Homeland Security Department to study the possibility of screening passengers, baggage and cargo on Amtrak trains. The new emphasis on rail security also responds to criticism from the railroad industry which has warned, since the September 11 terrorist attacks, that the emphasis by Congress on aviation security overlooked vulnerabilities

of the rail system.

Source: <http://www.washtimes.com/business/20040315-093357-8088r.htm>

12. *March 16, New York Times* — **U.S. takes steps to tighten Mexican border.** Federal officials have become increasingly worried about a surge in violence and instability along the Arizona–Mexico border and will begin what they describe as a major air and ground initiative to help keep out illegal immigrants, drug smugglers and possibly terrorists, officials said on Monday, March 15. **The \$10 million plan, to be announced on Tuesday by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), will include the first use of unmanned aircraft for border patrol, the addition of several hundred agents and the creation of seven tent complexes to detain illegal border crossers.** Asa Hutchinson, an under secretary for domestic security, said in an interview that a tightening of security in border areas in California, Texas and elsewhere had led smugglers to turn in increasing numbers to Arizona — often with violent results. Federal officials also plan to expand their patrols with helicopters and manned airplanes, create a new interagency network to coordinate the initiative, and add 200 permanent border patrol agents and 60 temporary agents trained in search and rescue operations. The increase will bring the number of border agents in Tucson to more than 1,900. DHS press release:

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=3358>

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/03/16/national/16BORD.html>

13. *March 16, Chicago Daily Herald* — **Rail security raised, but task formidable. The Madrid train bombings have raised the level of vigilance and foreboding in hard-to-protect major U.S. rail systems, with more security announcements and patrols by armed police and sniffing dogs.** From New York to Washington, Chicago to San Francisco, last Thursday's attacks on commuters in the Spanish capital underscored U.S. officials' unease that trains and subway systems are too expansive and accessible to be secured like airports. "You can't secure everything all the time, but you put plans in place to minimize occurrences," said Larry Langford, spokesman for Chicago's Office of Emergency Management and Communications. However, in the last week, he acknowledged, those plans have been "tweaked, based on what we now know." Neither he nor other transit officials provided details on many of the changes.

Source: http://www.dailyherald.com/cook/main_story.asp?intID=3806290

14. *March 15, Reuters* — **Maritime anti-terror law threatens trade chaos.** Global trade could face chaos as nations struggle to comply with a worldwide maritime anti-terror law that comes into force in July, industry sources and security experts said on Monday, March 15. **The tough new international security requirements for ships and ports, adopted by the United Nations in December 2002 in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks, require all ships to be security-certified by the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO) before they will be free to carry on trading.** Ports and oil terminals need to be security accredited by the world's top maritime body or risk being labeled as "contaminated" and their cargoes turned back at the port of call. According to the U.N. over 90 percent of world trade, including key raw materials like oil, iron ore, coal and grain is carried by sea. Of the 6000 port facilities receiving internationally traded goods only a small proportion had been approved. The United States, which spearheaded the security code, is expected to strictly enforce the measures prohibiting vessels entering its ports that fall short of the measures, experts say.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=reutersEdge&storyID=4570295>

Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *March 16, Associated Press* — **Postal facility cleansed of anthrax now set for early '05 opening.** The odor of chlorine used to kill anthrax spores lingered in the air Tuesday, March 16, as officials led the first tour of a postal facility shut down in October 2001 after mail containing the deadly bacteria was processed there. Trenton Postmaster Joseph Sautello said the mail distribution center is now expected to reopen for business early next year. Gone from the facility were machines that processed envelopes containing anthrax, addressed to the offices of U.S. Sens. Tom Daschle and Patrick Leahy, NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw and the New York Post. The cost of fumigation for the two postal facilities was \$220 million. Refurbishing the Hamilton facility was expected to cost another \$25 million, Sautello said. **New machines that can detect anthrax and other biological agents will be installed at the Hamilton facility along with the other distribution centers in the postal system.**

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/ny-bc-nj--anthrax-postalfac0316mar16,0,4160056.story?coll=ny-ap-regional-wire>

Agriculture Sector

16. *March 16, AgProfessional* — **USDA provides \$84 million to protect farm and ranch land. Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman has announced that \$84 million will be available to protect farm and ranch land through USDA's Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP).** Through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), FRPP protects productive agricultural land by purchasing conservation easements to limit conversion of farm and ranch lands to non-agricultural uses. For those proposals selected for FRPP funding, USDA enters into agreements with selected entities to support their efforts to protect soils and historical and archaeological sites. To participate in FRPP, landowners agree to limit the use of their land for nonagricultural purposes and to develop and implement a conservation plan.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=24107

17. *March 16, AgProfessional* — **Australian farmers back large-scale GM canola trial. Australia's largest farmers group has called on the New South Wales (NSW) state government to allow larger scale trials of genetically modified (GMO) canola to go ahead.** A government-appointed advisory council is meeting this week to finalize recommendations to the state's Agriculture Minister on two applications for large-scale trials. The NSW Farmers Association, which represents 13,000 members, said GMO crop trials on an area the size of a board room table had been running for some time, but it was time to move to a real-life scale to answer unknowns about GMO canola. "Many farmers across the state are undecided about commercially adopting GMO canola, but there is a strong feeling amongst growers that further information is needed," the chair of the association's grains committee, Angus Macneil, said. Monsanto Co. and Bayer CropScience applied last November for permission to produce about

5,000 tons of GMO canola from a trial crop in NSW, enough to fill a single ship hatch but less than 0.3 percent of a typical Australian canola crop. The state government has a moratorium on the growing of commercial canola crops in the state until 2006.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=24101

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Food Sector

18. *March 16, Associated Press* — **Firm recalls packages of cookies with nuts. An Oregon food gift company is recalling nearly 8,000 packages of breakfast cookies because they contain undeclared almonds and pecans, posing a health risk to people with allergies. No injuries or illnesses have been reported, the Food and Drug Administration said.** Bear Creek Stores of Medford, OR, sold the cookies nationwide at Harry and David stores. The company removed raspberry chocolate "Up With the Sun Breakfast Cookies" from stores last week after a customer noticed almonds and pecans in the product, Bear Creek spokesperson William Ihle said. The package's back label includes a product code of SKU#923187 on the upper left hand corner. The recall does not apply to cookies sold through Harry and David catalogues.

Source: <http://www.cleveland.com/news/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/news/1079438109291430.xml>

19. *March 16, Foodproductiondaily.com* — **U.S. meat packers demand compulsory mad cow testing. U.S. beef processors, fearing the loss of lucrative markets to competitors such as Europe and Australia, are desperate to start exporting again. They are asking that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) tests all their slaughter cattle in order for them to be given a full bill of health.** The USDA is currently considering the request, however, the department has declined to estimate when a ruling would be made. During a news conference this week, chief veterinary officer Ron DeHaven described the industry's proposals as a means of reintroducing exports and not as a disease prevention or detection step. The Japanese market is at the focus of the meat packers' attention. It was the number one market for U.S. beef exports before an import ban was put in place following the discovery of mad cow disease in the U.S. Japan tests all of its cattle for mad cow disease at slaughter, and has indicated that the U.S. should do the same if it wants to restart importing beef into the country.

Source: <http://www.foodproductiondaily.com/news/news-NG.asp?id=50648>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Water Sector

20. *March 16, The Salt Lake Tribune (UT)* — **Warming likely to hurt spring runoff. In just two weeks, Utah's snowpack has shrunk from above-average to below-average, making it almost certain that the spring runoff will disappoint for the sixth year in a row. Statewide, snow accumulations — which determine the availability of water for agricultural and municipal uses — dropped from 106 percent of normal on March 1 to 92 percent by Monday, March 15.** The snowpack could easily fall to 85 percent of average a week from now, said Randy Julander, snowpack expert for the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation

Service. The shrinkage in snowpack is due to a dearth of storms and to an abundance of sunshine, which evaporates the snow. Compounding the problem is that soils in the mountains are extremely dry and wait like giant sponges to sop up much of the snowmelt. Hydrologists predict the watersheds will lose 30 percent to 50 percent of their snowpacks to the dry soils. The bad news was delivered Monday at the monthly meeting of the state drought committee, which comprises a variety of water users and suppliers, who learned that few of the state's reservoirs will fill this year.

Source: <http://www.sltrib.com/2004/Mar/03162004/utah/148328.asp>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Public Health Sector

21. *March 16, Reuters* — **Experts warn of deadly human influenza pandemic.** Health experts on Tuesday, March 16, warned Asia's bird flu could still spark a deadly human influenza pandemic and urged all countries to step up readiness. Vaccines and anti-virals would be in short supply in the early stages of any global flu pandemic, when measures from quarantines to travel warnings could save lives, they added. **Around 100 experts from 40 countries are attending a three-day meeting called by the World Health Organization (WHO) to review global preparedness for a long-predicted flu pandemic.** Bird flu, which spread across eight countries of Asia from late last year, has killed a total of 23 people in Vietnam and Thailand. Some 100 million poultry have died or been culled. "If the virus acquired full capacity human to human transmission, we should expect a pandemic with huge morbidity and mortality," Hitoshi Oshitani, head of WHO's Western Pacific Regional Office, told the opening session. Klaus Stohr, head of WHO's global influenza program, said that only 36 of the United Nations' agency's some 190 members had reported pandemic plans. Early detection and sound surveillance systems are key for slowing the spread of a pandemic, so as to "buy time" until appropriate new vaccines become available, according to WHO.

Source: http://www.agriculture.com/worldwide/IDS/2004-03-16T164047Z_01_L16629878_RTRIDST_0_HEALTH-INFLUENZA.html

22. *March 16, Associated Press* — **Drug-resistant TB found in Netherlands. The first outbreak of a strain of multiple-drug-resistant tuberculosis has appeared in the Netherlands, and officials said they were concerned about a wider outbreak once the European Union expands eastward where the disease is more prevalent.** The Dutch Tuberculosis Foundation said an eastern European TB patient infected six Dutch citizens, two of whom developed pulmonary tuberculosis. On Tuesday, March 16, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a report estimating 300,000 new cases per year of multiple-drug-resistant TB around the world, and 79 percent of MDR-TB cases now show resistance to three or more drugs. **The strain was most common in the countries of the former Soviet Union, particularly Kazakhstan, and in Israel, the WHO said.** Jaap Broekmans, director of the Dutch foundation, said the outbreak in the Netherlands was under control "thanks to the swift action by the regional municipal health services." Neither the identity of the patients nor the locality were disclosed. But Broekmans was concerned about opening the borders on May 1 to people from eastern Europe, where the chance of developing the drug-resistant strain is 10 times higher than elsewhere. Until now, he said the Netherlands has had five to 10 isolated cases a year, nearly all of them non-Dutch citizens.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/world/8200085.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Government Sector

Nothing to report.

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Emergency Services Sector

23. *March 16, Global Security Newswire* — Panel to speed federal first responder funding. The Homeland Security Department announced the appointment Monday, March 15, of 20 top state and local officials to a new panel that will seek to speed the flow of federal terrorism response funds to local officials. The panel will be chaired by Governor Mitt Romney of Massachusetts. The U.S. Conference of Mayors said in a January survey that 76 percent of cities polled had received no money from the Homeland Security Department's largest first-responder programs. Many state-government advocates have rejected blame for the problem, charging among other things that local officials have misunderstood the grant process. The task force, which has been meeting for about two weeks and is expected to issue recommendations to the department within two months, brings together governors, mayors, county executives and other officials in a bid to "examine the funding process and ensure that Department of Homeland Security funds move quickly to local first responders," the department said in a press release. **"The Department of Homeland Security shares the concerns of communities anticipating these funds. ... The task force will put homeland security dollars into the hands of first responders more rapidly,"** Department of Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said on Monday.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0304/031604gsn1.htm>

[\[Return to top\]](#)

Information and Telecommunications Sector

24. *March 16, Government Technology* — North Carolina scientists develop breakthrough Internet Protocol. Researchers in North Carolina State University have developed a new data transfer protocol for the Internet called Binary Increase Congestion Transmission Control Protocol (BIC-TCP). Dr. Injong Rhee, speaking at the IEEE Infocom 2004 meeting on March 11, said that **BIC can achieve speeds roughly 6,000 times that of DSL and 150,000 times that of current modems.** BIC could boost the efficacy of cutting-edge applications such as telemedicine, real-time environmental monitoring, and business operations. **BIC might even help avoid a national disaster: The recent blackout that affected large areas of the eastern United States and Canada underscored the need to spread data-rich backup systems across hundreds of thousands of miles.** Additional information is available here:

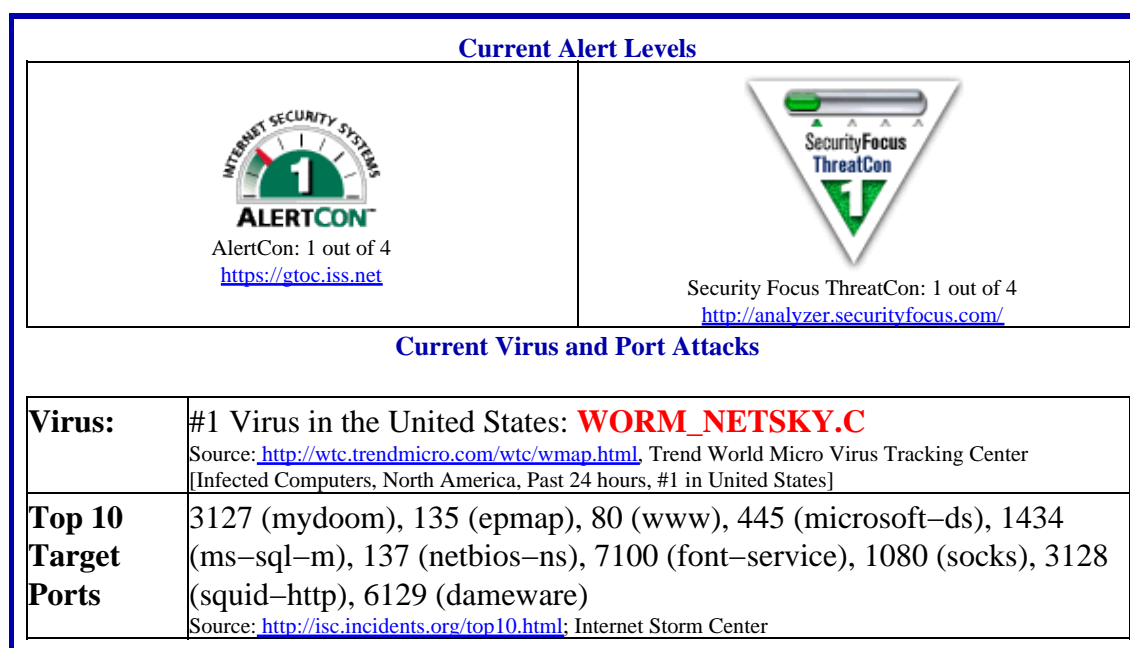
http://www4.ncsu.edu:8030/~lxu2/xu_INFOCOM_2004.pdf

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=89672>

25. *March 12, Security Focus* — **Hosting company reveals hacks, citing disclosure law.** Citing California's security breach disclosure law, Texas-based Allegiance Telecom notified 4,000 Web hosting customers this week of a March 3 computer intrusion that exposed their usernames and passwords. The law, called SB 1386, took effect July 1, 2003. It obligates companies doing business in California to warn their customers in "the most expedient time possible" about any security breach that exposes certain types of information: specifically, customers' names in association with their social security number, drivers license number, or a credit card or bank account number. Attorneys have warned that SB 1386 applies to e-commerce companies nationwide if they house information on residents of California. **The intrusion did not directly expose information covered by the law, according to the company. Instead, the intruder pilfered thousands of passwords protecting customers' Web hosting accounts.** Because many of those accounts are held by e-commerce companies, Allegiance issued the notice anyway, informing clients that SB 1386 may now oblige them to pass on the warning to their California customers if they accept personally identifiable information.

Source: <http://securityfocus.com/news/8240>

Internet Alert Dashboard



[\[Return to top\]](#)

General Sector

26. *March 16, CNN* — **Police name suspect in Ohio highway shootings.** Authorities in Columbus, OH, late Monday, March 15, issued an arrest warrant for a suspect in a series of shootings around the city's outerbelt highway that have left one woman dead, a spokesman for the Franklin County Sheriff's Department said. **According to Detective James C. Clark Jr., the warrant for Columbus resident Charles McCoy Jr. was issued around 10 p.m. In a news conference earlier in the day, Franklin County Chief Deputy Steve Martin first**

identified McCoy, 28, as the suspect and distributed a photograph of him. Martin said McCoy was identified as a result of evidence collected in the case, though he would not elaborate about that evidence. Martin said McCoy owns a dark green 1999 Geo Metro with a black hood and Ohio license plate number CGV 7387. Martin said McCoy may be armed and urged people not to approach him. Authorities have used ballistics tests and other evidence to link 24 shootings since May on and near I-270. A \$60,000 reward has been offered for information leading to the arrest and indictment of the shooter.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/US/Midwest/03/15/ohio.highway.shootings/index.html>

27. *March 16, Associated Press* — Schools close in Ohio, New York as storm spreads.

Hundreds of Ohio schools canceled classes Tuesday, March 16, as a precaution and some New York schools planned to close early as a late snowstorm spread eastward. Most accumulations were light along the storm's track from the northern Plains toward New England. However, up to 10 inches of snow was possible late Tuesday in the snow belt east and northeast of Cleveland, and a record 18 inches fell Monday in one isolated area, around Sioux City in northwestern Iowa. Some other spots in western Iowa got 15 inches, but many towns elsewhere in state got only a dusting. Up to a foot of snow was forecast in parts of New York state, and nine inches was possible in northwestern New Jersey, disappointing people who had become accustomed to milder weather over the past week. Saturday is the last day of winter.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/WEATHER/03/16/late.snowstorm.ap/index.html>

[[Return to top](#)]

DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions: nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at (703) 883-3644

Subscription and Distribution Information: Send mail to nipcdailyadmin@mail.nipc.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at (703) 883-3644 for more information.

Contact DHS/IAIP

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at info@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.uscert.gov.

DHS/IAIP Disclaimer

The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary and assessment of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. This is an internal DHS/IAIP tool intended to serve the informational needs of DHS/IAIP personnel and other interested staff. Further reproduction or redistribution for private use or gain is subject to original copyright restrictions of the content. The IAIP provides no warranty of ownership of the copyright, or of accuracy in respect of the original source material.